

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

/070 W

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R 130855Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USEUCOM VAIHINGEN

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

UNCLAS STUTTGART 221

FOR POLADS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR GW

SUBJ: FILBINGER MEETS THE PRESS AND PUBLIC -- STUTTGART STYLE

REF: (A) 75 STUTTGART A-109, (B) STUTTGART A-11,

(C) 75 STUTTGART 1215, (D) STUTTGART 017

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER (CDU) PARTICIPATED IN STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN "TREFFPUNKT FOYER" PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 11. STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL ISSUES IN APRIL 4 BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG LANDTAG ELECTIONS AND ADDED CDU MUST WORK HARD TO MAINTAIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. ELABORATED ON PREVIOUS STATEMENT SAYING BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG VOTERS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY. SOFTENED ATTITUDE TOWARDS FDP BUT HELD TO HARD LINE AGAINST POLISH TREATIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. B-W MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER CONTINUED LANDTAG ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN "NON-POLITICAL" STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN "TREFFPUNKT FOYER" 11 FEB EXCHANGE WITH EDITORIAL STAFF AND OVERFLOW INVITED AUDIENCE. REJECTED NOTION THAT EVENTS IN LOWER SAXONY OR FEDERAL QUESTIONS WILL REPLACE LOCAL LAND ISSUES AS DECISIVE FACTORS IN LAND ELECTION OUTCOME. STRESSED CDU HAS WORK CUT OUT FOR IT TO MAINTAIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY BUT DID NOT SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE PREVAILING OPTIMISM.

3. FILBINGER SINGLED OUT INTERNAL SECURITY AS ONE PRIORITY ISSUE. ON RELATED SUBJECT HE STAUNCHLY DEFENDED LAND GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO QUESTION OF RADICALS IN PUBLIC SERVICE (REF A). OTHER SUBJECTS EMERGING DURING DISCUSSIONS DEALT WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF MIDDLE-SIZE INDUSTRIES AND COMPATIBILITY OF ITS SAVINGS PROGRAM WITH PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH.

4. MINISTER PRESIDENT ALSO GRILLED ON GOVERNMENT'S SOFTENED ATTITUDE TOWARD WHYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION (REF B). HE REPLIED IN EFFECT THAT GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS WERE INVOLVED AND GOVERNMENT NOW PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE MORE RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS. AS BAD GUYS HE IDENTIFIED HIGHLY IDEALISTIC LEFT EXTREMISTS AND COMMUNISTS COMING FROM OUTSIDE B-W.

5. FILBINGER STUCK TO HIS GUNS REGARDING SINDELFINGER STATEMENT THAT B-W VOTERS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY. BASED HIS CASE ON WHAT HE CLAIMED TO BE FACTS AND NOT JUST QUOTATIONS. MAIN THREAT CAME FROM SPD LEFT-WINGERS AND JUSOS WHO WOULD HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE IN ANY SPD-DOMINATED OR CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY NOT SOCIALIST, FDP'S CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH SPD MADE SOCIALIST ADVANCES A DANGEROUS REALITY.

6. ONE EDITOR ACCUSED FILBINGER OF BEING MUCH SOFTER IN TONE ON FDP IN RELATIVELY SMALL BUT SELECT GATHERING THAN IN PUBLIC DECLARATIONS. FILBINGER REFUTED THIS CHARGE BY SAYING CDU ALWAYS HAD DOOR OPEN FOR FDP AND CITED PAST INSTANCES OF COOPERATION. FDP LATELY IN HABIT OF SLAMMING DOOR IN B-W CDU FACE WITH LATEST OCCASIONS BEING B-W FDP LATE 1975 MEETING IN KONSTANZ (REF C) AND JANUARY 1976 THREE KINGS MEETING IN STUTTGART (REF D).

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7. ONLY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE DISCUSSED CONCERNED POLISH TREATIES. FILBINGER OBJECTED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AND COMPLAINED THAT TREATIES BADLY NEGOTIATED. TOO MANY ETHNIC GERMANS IN POLAND LEFT OUT IN THE COLD AND FRG COMMITMENTS MUCH MORE PRECISE THAN THOSE OF POLES. FILBINGER, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY DOES NOT WANT ISSUE DRAGGED ON TOO MUCH LONGER. CDU/CSU GOVERNMENT, SHOULD ONE BE ELECTED IN OCTOBER, WOULD RENEGO-

TIATE TREATIES. FILBINGER REFUSED MAKE ANYTHING SOUNDING LIKE  
CONFIDENT AND/OR DEFINITIVE COMMENT ON LIKELY BUNDESRAT OUT-  
COME WHEN ISSUE VOTED ON EARLY IN MARCH.

8. COMMENT: FILBINGER WAS IN A RELAXED AND CONFIDENT MOOD  
AND WELL-TREATED BY AUDIENCE THAT INCLUDED NUMBER OF EVIDENT  
SPD AND FDP ADHERENTS. ONE OF LATTER WAS FDP LANDTAG DEPUTY  
EILHELM HOFFMANN WHO ELICITED RELATIVELY TOLERANT AND BALANCED  
REMARKS FROM FILBINGER CONCERNING HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE  
FDP. FILBINGER IN COMMAND OF MOST SUBJECTS THAT CAME UP AND  
WAS DIRECT AND RESPONSIVE IN HIS REPLIES TO QUESTONS. HE COMES  
ACROSS AS A MAN WHO IS CONVINCED THAT BOTH HE AND HIS PARTY  
CLEARLY ARE THE FRONT RUNNERS THUS FAR IN THE CAMPAIGN. MOST  
OBSERVERS SHARE THIS VIEW. CARLSON

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## Message Attributes

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